

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EMBEDDING A CONTEXT-SENSITIVE WEB PORTAL
IN A COMPUTER APPLICATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A Web client/Web server computer system providing a methodology for
embedding a context-sensitive Web portal in a computer application operating on the Web
client is described. A special key tag type is defined to be monitored by the application, so
that the server may control the application, where the special key tag type includes an
embedded tag specifying hypertext navigation and includes auxiliary information. The server
10 publishes to the application a Web page having at least one of the special key tags, so that the
Web page is displayed at the application. In response to a user request for invoking a
particular hypertext link of the published Web page, the application traps the request before
the request is processed by the embedded browser. The application may determine whether
the invoked hypertext link comprises a special key tag. If the hypertext link does not
15 comprise a special key tag, the application simply passes the hypertext link to the embedded
browser for processing. Otherwise, if the hypertext link does comprise a special key tag, the
application processes the special key tag in accordance with the auxiliary information, and
thereafter passes the embedded tag of the special key tag to the embedded browser for
processing. In this manner, the present invention affords a means by which a Web server
20 may and control a parent process (application) directly, thereby allowing an application
developer to invoke functionality of the host application, particularly when such functionality
would be difficult to emulate through Web pages.